

# A' Class-Tenses Review

## Stative Verbs List

Some verbs are only (or mostly) used in simple tenses, and are not used in continuous tenses. An example of a simple tense is the present simple, or the past simple. An example of a continuous tense is the present continuous or past continuous. These verbs are called stative, or state verbs. A verb which isn't stative is called a dynamic verb, and is usually an action. Often stative verbs are about liking or disliking something, or about a mental state, not about an action.

Verb	Correct	Not Correct
agree	She didn't agree with us.	<del>She wasn't agreeing with us.</del>
appear	It appears to be raining.	<del>It is appearing to be raining.</del>
believe	I don't believe the news.	<del>I am not believing the news.</del>
belong	This book belonged to my grandfather.	<del>This book was belonging to my grandfather.</del>
concern	This concerns you.	<del>This is concerning you.</del>
consist	Bread consists of flour, water and yeast.	<del>Bread is consisting of flour, water and yeast.</del>
contain	This box contains a cake.	<del>This box is containing a cake.</del>
depend	It depends on the weather.	<del>It's depending on the weather.</del>
deserve	He deserves to pass the exam.	<del>He is deserving to pass the exam.</del>
disagree	I disagree with you.	<del>I am disagreeing with you.</del>
dislike	I have disliked mushrooms for years.	<del>I have been disliking mushrooms for years.</del>
doubt	I doubt what you are saying.	<del>I am doubting what you are saying.</del>
feel (=have an opinion)	I don't feel that this is a good idea.	<del>I am not feeling that this is a good idea.</del>
fit	This shirt fits me well.	<del>This shirt is fitting me well.</del>
hate	Julie's always hated dogs.	<del>Julie's always been hating dogs.</del>
hear	Do you hear music?	<del>Are you hearing music?</del>

imagine	I imagine you must be tired.	<del>I am imagining you must be tired.</del>
impress	He impressed me with his story.	<del>He was impressing me with his story.</del>
include	This cookbook includes a recipe for bread.	<del>This cookbook is including a recipe for bread.</del>
involve	The job involves a lot of travelling.	<del>The job is involving a lot of travelling.</del>
know	I've known Julie for ten years.	<del>I've been knowing Julie for ten years.</del>
like	I like reading detective stories.	<del>I am liking reading detective stories.</del>
love	I love chocolate.	<del>I'm loving chocolate.*</del>
matter	It doesn't matter.	<del>It isn't mattering.</del>
mean	'Enormous' means 'very big'.	<del>'Enormous' is meaning 'very big'.</del>
measure (=be long)	This window measures 150cm.	<del>This window is measuring 150cm.</del>
mind	She doesn't mind the noise.	<del>She isn't minding the noise.</del>
need	At three o'clock yesterday I needed a taxi.	<del>At three o'clock yesterday I was needing a taxi.</del>
owe	I owe you £20.	<del>I am owing you £20.</del>
own	She owns two cars.	<del>She is owning two cars.</del>
prefer	I prefer chocolate ice cream.	<del>I am preferring chocolate ice cream.</del>
promise	I promise to help you tomorrow.	<del>I am promising to help you tomorrow.</del>
realise	I didn't realise the problem.	<del>I wasn't realising the problem.</del>
recognise	I didn't recognise my old friend.	<del>I wasn't recognising my old friend.</del>
remember	He didn't remember my name.	<del>He wasn't remembering my name.</del>
seem	The weather seems to be improving.	<del>The weather is seeming to be improving.</del>
sound	Your idea sounds great.	<del>Your idea is sounding great.</del>
suppose	I suppose John will be late.	<del>I'm supposing John will be late.</del>

surprise	The noise surprised me.	<del>The noise was surprising me.</del>
understand	I don't understand this question.	<del>I'm not understanding this question.</del>
want	I want to go to the cinema tonight.	<del>I am wanting to go to the cinema tonight.</del>
weigh (=have weight)	This cake weighs 450g.	<del>This cake is weighing 450g.</del>
wish	I wish I had studied more.	<del>I am wishing I had studied more.</del>

Some verbs can be both stative and dynamic:

be	<p>be is usually a stative verb, but when it is used in the continuous it means 'behaving' or 'acting'</p> <p>you are stupid = it's part of your personality</p> <p>you are being stupid = only now, not usually</p>
have	<p>have (stative) = own</p> <p>I have a car</p> <p>have (dynamic) = part of an expression</p> <p>I'm having a party / a picnic / a bath / a good time / a break</p>
see	<p>see (stative) = see with your eyes / understand</p> <p>I see what you mean</p> <p>I see her now, she's just coming along the road</p> <p>see (dynamic) = meet / have a relationship with</p> <p>I've been seeing my boyfriend for three years</p> <p>I'm seeing Robert tomorrow</p>
taste (also: smell, feel, look)	<p>taste (stative) = has a certain taste</p> <p>This soup tastes great</p> <p>taste (dynamic) = the action of tasting</p> <p>The chef is tasting the soup</p>
think	<p>think (stative) = have an opinion</p> <p>I think that coffee is great</p> <p>think (dynamic) = consider, have in my head</p> <p>what are you thinking about? I'm thinking about my next holiday</p>